Amendments To The Drawings

Attached please find the following:

1. An Annotated Sheet Showing Changes for Fig. 2; and

2. A Replacement Sheet, including the changes illustrated in the Annotated Sheet, to replace the original sheet including Figs. 2 and 3.

The specific changes made are as follows:

In Fig. 2, the element 32 has been deleted.

REMARKS

Claims 2 and 12 have been cancelled, and claims 1, 3-6, 11, 13-17 and 28 have been amended. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the original claims and other claims in this application and other applications. Claims 1, 3-11 and 13-39 are pending in this application.

The specification has been amended to include the patent numbers of the parent applications, and to correct a typographical error. No new matter has been added.

The drawings were objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5). Fig. 2 has been amended to correct the error noted by the Examiner. A proposed drawing correction and corrected drawing are attached.

Claims 1-3, 6, 11-13 and 16 are objected to because they contain the phrase "adapted to." Although a search of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office website resulted in the identification of more than four hundred and thirty thousand (430,000) patents that include the phrase "adapted to" in the claims, thereby indicating that this phrase is used considerably in claims, to facilitate prosecution the claims have been amended to remove the phrase "adapted to."

Claims 1-3, 6-13, 16-21, 28-31, 34 and 35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cueman (U.S. 6,765,993) in view of Purdy et al. (U.S. 6,658,254). Claims 4, 5, 14, 5, 22-27, 32, 33 and 36-39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cueman in view of Purdy et al and further in view of Storace et al. (U.S. 4,831,554). Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The present invention is directed to a facsimile machine that is provided with one or more ports for coupling with other office equipment, such as, for example, postage meters, postage scales, personal computers, etc. Data transfers from a service center or the like are received by the facsimile machine and identified as to

which device coupled to the facsimile machine is the intended recipient. The facsimile machine then routes the data transfer to the intended device. Accordingly, only a single analog telephone line is required for all of the devices coupled to the facsimile machine.

In view of the above, claim 1 as amended is directed to a facsimile machine that comprises an input port for coupling to a telephone line; a controller coupled to said input port; a memory device coupled to said controller; a plurality of module ports, each of said plurality of module ports for coupling to one of a plurality of equipment modules such that more than one equipment module is simultaneously coupled to said facsimile machine; and an input/output controller coupled between said controller and said plurality of module ports, wherein said facsimile machine receives a data transfer, via said telephone line, from a service center, said data transfer intended for one of said plurality of equipment modules coupled to said facsimile machine, said controller determines said one of said plurality of equipment modules said data transfer is intended for based on information included in said data transfer and determines if said one of said plurality of equipment modules is available to receive said data transfer, and if said one of said plurality of equipment modules is available to receive said data transfer, said controller causes said input/output controller to route said data transfer to said one of said plurality of equipment modules.

Cueman, in contrast, is directed to an information gathering system for remotely monitoring and diagnosing the condition of equipment such as household appliances. In Cueman, each piece of equipment to be monitored is provided with sensing means 14. An electronic module 16 is removably connected with the sensing means 14 and operable to electronically receive and record the equipment condition indication from the sensing means 14. The electronic module can be connected with a telephone outlet 18 and upon sensing connection with the telephone outlet 18 is preprogrammed to call a predetermined telephone number associated with a service provider location 22. The service provider location 22 in response to receiving the telephone call from the electronic module 16 will download

and analyze the equipment indication to provide a recommended course of action to maintain the monitored equipment in operative condition. (Col. 3, lines 25-45). In Cueman, each electronic module is plugged into a prominent location on its household appliance so that it will be receiving and recording the current condition and service history. When the appliance owner wants assistance with the particular appliance, he or she removes the electronic module 16, physically carries it to a convenient telephone outlet 18 and plugs it into the telephone outlet 18 using the standard telephone plug 42 on the module 16. The communications interface 40 in the module 16 senses the phone connection and dials the preprogrammed telephone number. The data processor 20 at the service provider location 22 responds and downloads the data signals from the electronic module 16, analyzes the data and takes a business action. For example, it could light an indicator on the module 16 that tells the consumer that the appliance requires service or automatically dial back to put the consumer in touch with a service representative. (Col. 4, lines 33-51).

The system in Cueman is in no way similar to the present invention. As noted above, the present invention is directed to a facsimile machine that is provided with one or more ports for coupling with other office equipment, such as, for example, postage meters, postage scales, personal computers, etc. Data transfers from a service center or the like are received by the facsimile machine and identified as to which device coupled to the facsimile machine is the intended recipient. The facsimile machine then routes the data transfer to the intended device. There is no disclosure, teaching or suggestion anywhere in Cueman of a facsimile machine that includes a plurality of module ports for coupling to one of a plurality of equipment modules such that more than one equipment module is simultaneously coupled to the facsimile machine as is recited in claim 1. There is also no disclosure, teaching or suggestion in Cueman of a facsimile machine receiving a data transfer from a service center that is intended for one of the plurality of equipment modules coupled to the facsimile machine, determining which one of the plurality of equipment modules the data transfer is intended for based on information included in the data transfer, determining if the equipment module for which the data transfer is intended

for is available to receive the data transfer, and if the equipment module for which the data transfer is intended is available, routing the data transfer to the equipment module for which it is intended as is recited in claim 1.

The reference to Purdy et al. does not overcome the above deficiencies. Purdy et al. is directed to a system in which a mobile user can receive a multimedia call utilizing a multimedia terminal with which the mobile user has previously registered using a portable intelligent device. In Purdy et al., a user utilizes a portable intelligent device (PID) to register with a multimedia call processing server a user credential and the address of a multimedia terminal to which the user wants multimedia calls sent. When a call addressed to the user is received by the call processing server, call notification information is sent to the multimedia terminal registered by the user. The multimedia server sends a notification to the PID that the multimedia call will not be completed to the multimedia terminal until after the user credential is resent to the multimedia terminal. The multimedia terminal then receives a re-sent user credential from the PID and sends it to the server, where it is compared to the user credential received during registration of the user. If the re-sent user credential corresponds to the stored user credential, the multimedia call is completed to the multimedia terminal for receipt by the user. (Col. 9, lines 25-45).

There is no disclosure, teaching or suggestion anywhere in Purdy et al. or Cueman, either alone or in combination, of a facsimile machine that includes a plurality of module ports for coupling to one of a plurality of equipment modules such that more than one equipment module is simultaneously coupled to the facsimile machine as is recited in claim 1. There is also no disclosure, teaching or suggestion in Purdy et al. or Cueman, either alone or in combination, of a facsimile machine receiving a data transfer from a service center that is intended for one of the plurality of equipment modules coupled to the facsimile machine, determining which one of the plurality of equipment modules the data transfer is intended for based on information included in the data transfer, determining if the equipment module for which the data transfer is intended for is available to receive the data transfer, and if

the equipment module for which the data transfer is intended is available, routing the data transfer to the equipment module for which it is intended as is recited in claim 1.

For at least the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is allowable over the prior art of record. Claims 3-10, dependent upon claim 1, are allowable along with claim 1 and on their own merits.

Independent claims 11 and 28 include limitations substantially similar to claim 1. For the same reasons given with respect to claim 1 above, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 11 and 28 are allowable over the prior art of record. Claims 13-27, dependent upon claim 11, are allowable along with claim 11 and on their own merits. Claims 29-39, dependent upon claim 28, are allowable along with claim 28 and on their own merits.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims of this case are in a condition for allowance and favorable action thereon is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures

ANNOTATED SHEET SHOWING CHANGES

FIG. 2

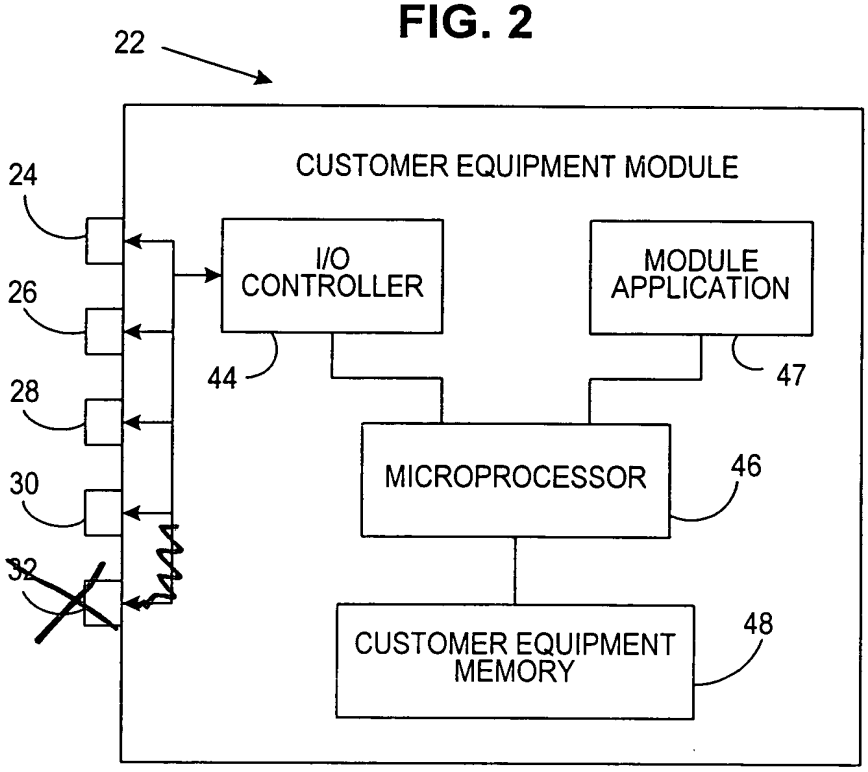

FIG.3